

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
February 10, 2014

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Kegler, Kochenburger, Marcellino, Moran, Paterson, Raymond, Ryan, Shapiro, Wassmundt

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2014 special meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Kochenburger who abstained. Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2014 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ed Wazer, Maple Road, outlined the long term consequences of purchasing development rights for existing farm land. (Statement attached)

Arthur Smith, Mulberry Road, spoke to the “rough and tumble” political process in Town and his belief that citizens are being deprived of their rights.

Brian Coleman, Centre Street, requested a definition of blight as used by Councilor Shapiro in the Town Council’s goal setting session.

IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written memo Town Manager Matt Hart offered the following comments:

- The Town Manager expanded on his written comments regarding the decrease in revenues to the Town based on the Governor’s mid-term projections for municipal aid.
- The fringe benefit rate for resident troopers may increase to 92% of base salary. The Director of Finance and the Mayor will attend a meeting of the Public Safety Committee chairs to provide public comment. A letter will also be sent to the new Commissioner of Public Safety stating the concerns of the Town.
- The Personnel Committee meetings will take place from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm on February 12, 2014 and from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm on February 13, 2014.
- Council members were asked to advise the Manager’s office if they wish to use the new voice mail system.
- In response to a question from Ms. Raymond regarding answering questions posed by the public during public comment, the Manager noted that he tries to answer questions of a factual nature either at that meeting or at a future meeting. Council members may raise questions that interest them.
- Mr. Hart noted the passing of David Stearns, who with his brother ran the bottling division of Mountain Dairy Farms, and offered his condolences to his family. Mr. Hart called Mr. Stearns a wonderful person whose life was a true testament to the contributions a responsible small business person can make to a community.
- A response to Ms. Wassmundt’s request for information on the state of the businesses in Storrs Center will be provided at a future meeting.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Moran noted the passing of long time Registrar of Voters Dot Shaw. Ms. Shaw was very active in Democratic politics and was committed to providing a good political process

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for all. Ms. Moran clarified some of the statements regarding ethical behavior and access made during the public comment portion of the meeting, commenting that attempts by the public to deal directly with Council members during a meeting is not permitted.

Mr. Ryan reported that he and his wife attended the E.O. Smith production of The Mystery of Edwin Drood, which, he reported, was very well done and starred Jennifer Kaufman's daughter as Mr. Drood.

Mr. Shapiro, responding to remarks during public comment, provided the UConn Commercial block, also known as the Store 24 Plaza, as an example of blight. Mr. Shapiro is also concerned with houses in residential neighborhoods which have significant numbers of occupants and are damaging or destroying the quality of life of the neighborhoods.

Mr. Shapiro clarified that the person referred to as a previous UConn Board of Trustee member whose firm submitted a proposal for the town attorney position left that post in 1997. The firm is not being interviewed.

Ms. Moran, who also serves as the Chair of the Connecticut Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, announced that March 13, 2014 is Women's Day at the Capitol beginning at 9:00 am. A panel discussion on Journalism and Gender will be presented. Ms. Moran invited those journalism students present at the meeting to attend the event.

Mayor Paterson clarified the unethical behavior referred to by a member of the public. After identifying herself as a member of the Downtown Partnership Board, the Mayor neglected to also note her role as a member of the Council while speaking in front of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to move Item 3, Affordable Care Act Impact on Mansfield, as the next item of business. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Community/Campus Relations

The Town/University Relations Committee will be meeting on February 11, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. during which updates on the NextGen project and the Tech Park will be presented, as well as an update from the Vice President of Student Affairs. Town and University staffs are still discussing the scope of a possible fiscal impact analysis with regards to the NextGen project. Additionally, there are other regional studies which would be helpful in determining regional impact of the NextGen project. The Executive Director of GRCOG (Capitol Regional Council of Governments) will be invited to a future Council meeting.

2. Storrs Center Update

An update regarding Storrs Center was distributed with the Town Manager's report.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

3. Affordable Care Act Impact on Mansfield

Steve May of Millman, Inc., the Town's employee benefits consultant, reviewed the effects and estimated costs of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Assistant Town Manager Maria Capriola spoke to the internal monitoring processes being developed to insure all entities comply with the requirements set forth in the law.

4. 2014 Social Services Block Grant

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the following resolutions: Resolved, effective February 10, 2014, that the Town Manager, Matthew W. Hart, is empowered to enter into and amend contractual instruments in the name and on behalf

of this Contractor with the Department of Social Services of the State of Connecticut for a Social Services Block Grant program, and to affix the corporate seal.

Resolved, effective February 10, 2014, that the Town Council of Mansfield hereby authorizes the Town Manager, Matthew Hart, to execute and deliver a representation on behalf of the Town of Mansfield that the Town of Mansfield has a policy in place that complies with the nondiscrimination agreements and warranties of the Connecticut General Statutes §4a-60(a)(1) and §4a-60a(a)(1), as amended.
The motions passed unanimously.

5. Approval of 2014/15 Budget Calendar

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded, effective February 10, 2014, to adopt the Proposed Budget Review Calendar for FY 2014/15 as presented by the Director of Finance and the Town Manager.
The motion passed unanimously.

6. Financial Statements Dated December 31, 2013

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Mr. Ryan moved, effective February 10, 2014, to accept the Financial Statements dated December 31, 2013.
Noting no major issues, Chairman Ryan reported the Finance Committee recommended acceptance of the financial statements.
Motion passed unanimously.

7. Capital Improvement Program Closeouts/Adjustments

Chairman Ryan moved, effective February 10, 2014, to approve the adjustments to the Capital Projects fund, as presented by the Director of Finance in her correspondence dated February 3, 2014.
Recommended by the Finance Committee, the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

No comments offered.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Ryan reported the Finance Committee discussed the building permit fee waiver requested by Educational Playcare and unanimously agreed to deny the request. The issue will be listed on the next Council agenda.

Mr. Ryan stated the Finance Committee also discussed the response to the audit recommendations. The Director of Finance is in the process of implementing those recommendations.

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Personnel Committee, invited all Council members to join the Committee for the interviews for the position of town attorney. The meetings will include the Chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Responsible Contractor Committee, reported the Committee is beginning to work on the direction a possible ordinance might take.

X. DEPARTMENT AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Kegler reported the Commission on Aging met and discussed the installation of a covered bus stop near the Mansfield Community Center, similar to that near the Senior Center. Mr. Hart commented that staff will be reviewing the request as part of the CIP budget.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

8. A. Smith (01/29/14)

9. C. Stites (01/26/14)

10. J. Goodwin re: Innovative Partnership Building Comparative Evaluation

11. E. Paterson re: Innovative Partnership Building (IPB) Comparative Evaluation

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12. M. Hart re: Town of Mansfield Small Town Economic Assistance Grant (STEAP)
Application for Mansfield Town Square
13.R. Miller re: Eastern Highlands Health District FY 2014-15 Budget

XII. FUTURE AGENDA

No items offered.

Mr. Shapiro presented a statement detailing his reasons for recusing himself from participation in the open space acquisition item listed for executive session. (Statement attached)

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Moran seconded to recess the regular meeting and convene in executive session to discuss (1) the sale or purchase of real property, in accordance with CGS§1-200(6)(D) and to include Town Manager Matt Hart, Natural Resources Coordinator Jennifer Kaufman and Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien and (2) strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims or litigation, in accordance with CGS§1-200(6)(B) and to include Town Manager Matt Hart, Assistant Town Manager Maria Capriola and Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien.

The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sale or purchase of real property, in accordance with CGS§1-200(6)(D)

Present: Kegler, Kochenburger, Marcellino, Moran, Paterson, Raymond, Ryan, Wassmundt

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart, Natural Resources Coordinator Jennifer Kaufman and Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien

Strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims or litigation, in accordance with CGS§1-200(6)(B)

Present: Kegler, Kochenburger, Marcellino, Moran, Paterson, Raymond, Ryan, Shapiro, Wassmundt

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart, Assistant Town Manager Maria Capriola and Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and passed at 10:20 p.m.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk